

If the style of delivery was something quite different from modern singing it was something quite different also from the ordinary speaking tones of the voice. The adjectives used in Anglo-Saxon in describing the scop's performance indicate that the voice was high and clear. For instance, in *Beowulf* the expression "swutol sang scopes," and in the same poem the use of the word "hador" (defined by Grein as serenus, limpidus, clarus, splendidus), "scop hlwilum sang hādor on Heorot," evidently refer to something more than ordinary speech. Still clearer evidence of this is afforded in *Widsith* where two singers with clear voices raise the song,

" wit Scilling sciran reorde
 song ahofan " (ll. 103-104).

The fact that the harp was so frequently used is in itself evidence that the poet employed something else than the tones of ordinary speech. The scop's performance seems to have been a sort of poetical declamation in which the singing tones were not so prominent as to veil distinctness of utterance, but which, combined with the emotional tone-inflections and the instrumental accompaniment, served to give a musical and artistic effect to the whole. Koegel expresses his opinion on this point as follows :—"Ich möchte aber glauben dass das Ganze auf eine Art Melodram hinauslief. Die Worte des Gedichts wurden langsam und schwerwichtig mit pathetisch gehobener Stimme recitiert. Dazu erklangen Harfentöne, die durch ihre rhythmische und harmonische Bewegung den ethischen Inhalt der Worte vertiefen sollten " (*Gesch. d. d. Lit.* I, i, 143). Weinhold (*Die deutsche Frauen*) expresses a similar opinion :—"Auf eines muss hier nachdrücklich hingewiesen werden, dass nämlich unsere alte Dichtung nicht gelesen sondern gesagt und gesungen ward, d. h. sie war auf den getragenen, in melodischem Tonwechsel sich bewegenden Vortrag berechnet, der von selbst strophemässige Abtheilungen forderte. Dieser Gesang konnte entweder ganz frei schweben oder durch sehr einfache Instrumentalbegleitung gestützt werden."

The effectiveness of the scop's primitive art was heightened by several circumstances which have already been noted. One of the most important of these was that at that time the func-